VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION / NEWSPAPER

VOL. 4 NO. 9 OCTOBER 2001

WOULD LOVETT RETAIN ANTI-GAY CITY SOLICITOR?

In the Morning Call (9/7/01), Allentown Mayoral candidate Bob Lovett (R) was asked specifically about City Solicitor Robert Daday, who has been perceived by many to be anti-gay. Lovett responded: "I've talked to him about those issues...and I have a feeling that the concerns those folks have are not really justified." PA-GALA and VFP representatives immediately made an appointment with Lovett and spoke to him about Daday's public anti-gay staements and whether or not Lovett would retain Daday as solicitor if Lovett was elected. See page 6 for coverage of that meeting.

OCTOBER 11 IS NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

PRIDE HOSTS COMEDY

It's an evening of Gay Comedy in celebration of National Coming Out Day, Saturday, October 13, featuring MadTv's BOB SMITH and a Local Amateur Showcase. Doors open at 8 pm, at The Ballroom at Best Western in Easton. Tickets are $15.00, includes hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and cash bar.

Bob Smith's book "Openly Bob," is this year's Lambda Literary Award winner. Bob appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno as the first openly gay comedian and has had his own HBO Half-Hour Comedy Special. He has also written for Dennis Miller, MTV Video Awards and Roseanne. For tickets contact PRIDE: 610-770-6200.

GLBT YOUTH DANCE

The Valley's FIRST-EVER GLBT Youth Dance sponsored by Pride of LV, LV-PFLAG and the Welcoming Congregation of UUCLV for all area GLBTA youth, COMING OUT DANCE, Friday, October 12, 7 pm-10:30 pm, at UUCLV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. Ticket price: $7.00, ages 16-22 yrs. old (w/ ID) Featuring DJ Jerry Paul. Snacks and non-alcoholic drinks included in ticket price. (Dance intended for youth only and will be chaperoned by adults.)

SUPPORT PA-GALA'S FIGHT FOR YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS BY... GOING TO A PARTY!!!

PA-GALA (Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance for political action) invites you on Sunday October 14, 7pm - 9pm to Family Health Chiropractic in Valley Plaza, (Service Merchandise Plaza) There will be food and wine and the proceeds will financially support PA-GALA's publication of Gay and Lesbian Vote 2001 and passage of inclusive State Hate Crimes legislation. Suggested donation is $10 per person. Candidates and elected officials will be there to talk to GLBT constituents. For further information:610-432-5449.

PRIDE ELECTIONS:
OCT 17
MCC BANQUET:
OCT 20
SUPPORT GAIL HOOVER'S CAMPAIGN
ELECTION DAY: NOV 6
MCCLV WORLD AIDS DAY
DEC 2

SEE ARTICLES PAGE 3

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basises listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8 , and asks that organizations which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

WHAT WILL PA'S NEW GOVENOR MEAN TO HATE CRIMES BILL PASSAGE?

PA-GALA Political Director Steve Black answers: New Gov. Mark Schwieker, told us the evening of the Senate Vote (June 22, when he was Lt. Gov.) that he supported the legislation and was prepared to vote with us in the case of a tie. The legislation passed the Senate without his help. Being from Bucks County and seeing his interaction with Sen. Conti, it appears to me the two are political friends. This is good for us and hate crimes legislation, since Senator Conti was the prime sponsor of the Senate Bill. We must meet with the new governor to solidify his support.

On the down side, many long time Harrisburg legislators may be unwilling to follow a new governor who was not elected and will only serve a little more than a year. We will just have to continue to work as hard as we can for passage of this Bill in the House. The key right now is still Rep. John Perzel - the Republican House Majority Leader.

FORMER NBL UMPIRE TO SPEAK AT MUHLENBERG

Dave Pallone, former National Baseball League umpire, made headlines in 1995 as one of the first people in professional sports to openly admit to being gay. Author of the NY Times bestseller "Behind the Mask: My Double Life in Baseball," Dave Pallone will address students, staff, and the community on Wednesday Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., in Moyer Hall at Muhlenberg College. Free and open to the public.

PLANET Parenthood

edited by Carolyn Lewis

KIDS AND MONSTERS

Well, the world has certainly changed since the last issue of the VFP. Many of you have been dealing with loss, grief, anger, confusion, and fear. Our children have been struggling with these feelings as well. They have either been watching the news, reading the papers, talking to their friends on the bus, or simply picking up on adults' emotions. At ages 6 and 3, my children are both too young to have an intellectual response to the events. They have, however, noticed the flags, participated in a candlelight vigil, and heard bits and pieces of conversations. I've kept the news off while they're home and neither of them read yet, but still, they know something terrible happened and naturally they have questions.

My son has been whiny and clingy and he wants to sleep in my bed. I've been giving in as much as I can because he needs that sense of security that all is right with his world and, frankly, it is comforting to me to feel his small warm body and feel his sweet breath on my face as he sleeps. My daughter has responded by maturing overnight. She has decided to give up thumb sucking and has gone about it with a determination that amazes me. She goes off to school every morning excited about all the changes in her life (new house, new school, new friends) with a resiliency that I cannot fully comprehend.

We are facing some tough times ahead and there will be more difficult questions from our children. Most of us by now have seen TV specials or read articles on how to talk to our kids about this. The main things are to tell the truth but give age-appropriate information, limit the amount of time spent watching television, and spend more time simply loving them.

I want so much to promise my children that there are no monsters. But kids are smart, they know better. The monsters might not be under the bed or in the closet, but they're out there. What they need to know from us is that the grown-ups are taking care of business and that we will do our best to keep them safe.

GLOSS NEWS

On September 22, 1991 GLOSS (Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Sports Society) played its first game of volleyball in the Lehigh Parkway. On Sunday, Sept 30, 2001 GLOSS celebrated 10 years of gay volleyball in the Lehigh Valley. Congratulations to GLOSS and all the great work and play it's given the community.

For further information about GLOSS call the GLOSS hotline at 610-434-2966.

BINGO FOR FACT AT DIAMONZ WITH CAROL ANN

Bingo for FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together) at Diamonz is your chance to help FACT and have a chance to win big money and great prizes. Bingo is at 7pm in the disco. Sunday Oct. 7th's jackpot will be worth well over $300. And with each round there is fun and exciting prizes.

Carol Ann, your BINGO host at Diamonz, wants you to not miss the chance to pick up some really fun Carol Ann, one-of-a-kind, super-duper, collectible merchandise. See you Sunday!

VFP ADVERTISING

VFP is now taking one advertising insert per month. This month's advertiser is GLBT community business Mom's Pizza, on 19th St. in Allentown. Mom's discount coupons are in VFPs mailed to subscribers only. For VFP advertising rates, call 610-432-5449.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, I was recently told by a co-worker about a "catch-up provision" for my retirement plan at work. Could you explain what this means? Also, what were the tax law changes that President Bush enacted earlier this year? **Signed, Lynn**

Dear Lynn, One of the reasons we pay accountants is to decipher ever-changing tax options. President Bush's new tax law contains 66 changes to pension plan regulations alone. But the same new laws may disappear on December 31, 2010 if not extended by subsequent legislators. For you, Lynn, this means a possible repeal of your newly acquired "catch-up provision," in less than ten years.

If you participate in a 401(k), you'll be able to increase your contribution from $10,500 to $11,000 in 2002. And continue to increase it by $1,000 a year to $15,000 in 2006, when it will be adjusted for inflation. On December 31, 2010, the $15,000 limit will suddenly reduce to $10,500, like a confusing magic trick.

Another interesting disappearing trick is the nonrefundable tax credit. The tax credit is for contributions made by eligible taxpayers to a qualified plan starting in 2002. The credit applies to contributions of up to $2,000 in IRAs, 401(k)s, 403 (b)s and 457 plans. Joint returns with adjusted gross income of $50,000 or less, head of household returns of $37,500 or less and single returns of $25,000 or less are elegible for the credit. However, it too will disappear in 2006.

Although the rules aren't clear, it does appear that some of the new legislation is permanent. For example: Employers who have Profit Sharing Plans will get a larger tax-deduction starting in 2002, and for employees who participate in such plans, the maxium contribution may be increased.

Also the new tax law appears to make permanent retirement plans more portable. The rollover rules will be expanded to permit rollovers between various types of retirement plans but in some cases rollovers may result in the loss of favorable tax treatment for certain distributions.

Lynn, regardless if the changes in the law are temporary or permanent, we all should be sitting down to review our retirement plans. Like any good magic trick, timing is everything. Don't miss out on any new options. These new changes are pretty complicated. You may want to talk to a qualified tax consultant about your specific situation.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for American Express Financial Advisors, Inc located at 7248 Tilghman Street, Allentown. Information provided within this column may not be appropriate for your specific financial situation.

AHRC AWARDS WINNERS

The Allentown Human Relations Commission is pleased to announce the Award Winners for the 24th Annual Human Relations Dinner, to be held Wednesday October 24, 2001, 5:30 p.m. at the Allentown Clarion (formerly Hilton), 904 Hamilton Mall, Allentown PA. The winners are: Lieutenant John Schaffer, Jr, Kevin Easterling, Rev. David Hill, James Bartley and Dun & Bradstreet.

Tickets are $30 per person or $225 for a table of 8. Reservations must be made no later than October 16. For reservations and information, contact Nicholas Butterfield, Human Relations Officer, at (610)-437-7661 or e-mail <Butterfield@Allentowncity.org>.

HIV TESTING

For free HIV counseling and testing: Allentown Health Bureau, 245 North 6thSt. Allentown. 610-437-7742, FAX 610-437-8799

HOT NEWS

CEDAR CREST DANCE

Join OutThere, Cedar Crest College's GLBT group, in celebration of National Coming Out Day at CCC's annual True Colors Dance. Oct. 13, 8pm-12am, Tompkin's College Center. Tickets:$3 for CCC Students, $4 for students with a college ID, and $5 for public. Semi-formal dress. DJ - Beth Walcome. Refreshments included.

GAY MEN OF LV

Oct. 13 - GMLV will present "Queer as Folk, Series 2: Same Men, New Tricks" (British Version). Oct. 27 - GMLV Game Night. GMLV meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7 pm at the Unitarian/Universalist Church, 424 Center St., Bethlehem.. Refreshments are served at each meeting. A one dollar donation is requested. To help with meetings contact: Joe Canto or email <gaymenlv@hotmail.com>.

SUPPORT GAIL HOOVER'S CAMPAIGN

The most important race in the upcoming Nov. 6 election is Gail Hoover's bid for Allentown City Council. Gail is the first GLBT community member to run for elected office in the Lehigh Valley. It is important to the entire Lehigh Valley that Gail win this election, not only because Gail is our own candidate, but because she has pledged to introduce the amendment of sexual orientation to the City's anti-discrimination ordinance. Only five other cities in PA have anti-discrimination ordinances and no such legislation has even been considered in the state in the last six years. Passage of anti-discrimination in Allentown may reactivate the fight for equal rights all over the state, including other cities in the Lehigh Valley. So please financially support Gail's campaign to the best of your ability, even if you do not live in Allentown. Because Gail on Allentown City Council will open the doors for supportive legislation and candidates to win every where.

To send a contribution to Gail's campaign, make the check to: "Friends of Gail Hoover" and mail it to: Gail Hoover Campaign, 427 1/2 N 9th St, Allentown, PA 18102. If you can put a sign in your yard, or want to volunteer to help, call 610-432-5449.

GLORA EVENTS

GLORA (Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allemtown) upcoming schedule: October 6 -Potluck in Allentown. Oct. 27 - Halloween party in Reading. November 3 - Hayride. Dec. 2 - GLORA'S 12th anniversary dinner at Bowers Hotel. For further information contact <glorainpa@aol.com>.

LV GAY MEN'S CHORUS

The November 17, "Sing for the Cure" concert of the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus will see the return of "Another Octave Women's Chorus" of Connecticut, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St. in Bethlehem, at 8:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by Muhlenberg Hospital the proceeds from the concert will go toward breast cancer care and prevention here in the Lehigh Valley. The second half of the concert will feature a selection of songs in a lighter vein. Tickets:$15. To Reserve: (610) 366-3320.

PRIDE ELECTIONS

Important Pride meeting Wednesday, October 17 @ 7 pm, at UUCLV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. Topics of discussion:- Board Nominations & Elections and Committees that need volunteers. If you want to run or nominate someone to run for a board position, please contact Pride. (610-770-6200, e-mail: pridelv@hotmail.com, web: www.pridelv.org)

PRIDE CALL 4 COMEDY

You think you're pretty funny, don'cha? SO PROVE IT!!

PRIDE is looking for a few funny folks to appear in an Amateur Comedy Showcase. If you think you have what it takes, prepare a 10 minute performance and contact Pride for an audition. The winners will get to perform with Mad TV's Bob Smith at Pride's "Laughing OUT Loud" October Comedy Event. (610-770-6200, e-mail: pridelv@hotmail.com, web: www.pridelv.org)

DIAMONZ DANCE FOR PRIDE

Pride of the LV Oldies night Friday Oct.12, at Diamonz, 9pm, Donation $5.00.

PFLAG MEETING

Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will meet on Sunday, Oct.14 from 3 to 5 PM at Northampton Community College in College Center Room 134. Contact PFLAG at (610) 967-5219 for further information.

MCCLV DONATES

Prior to the Sunday's service on September 16, the Metropolitan Community Church LV Board of Directors voted unanimously to donate the entirety of the offering to disaster relief efforts. The offering totaled $2,009. Half of the money will be donated to the Red Cross and half will be donated to MCC New York to assist in their relief efforts.

The MCCLV Board felt called to focus on others for this one Sunday in September. This sentiment was strongly supported by those gathered together for worship on Sunday evening. MCCLV sends its thoughts and prayers to the people of New York and Washington DC who have endured the terrible tragedy on September 11.

MCCLV ANNIV. BANQUET

MCCLV's Anniversary Banquet and Dance will be held at the Hotel Bethlehem on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 6:00-11:30 pm. Awards will be given to congregants for their serice to the community and a special award will go to an individual within the greater GLBT community. Join MCC for dinner, music and dancing. MCCLV is celebrating its 17th year anniversary. Tickets are $25.00. Call (610)954-7775.

MCC SOCK-HOP REPORT

MCC had a terrific "Sock Hop" dance fund raiser on September 29. MCC thanks Jim Fillman for organizing the event and all the people joined the fund. About 60 people attended and had a great time. One of the highlights of the evening was a surprise flying cartwheel executed during a circle dance by Rev. Beth Goudy. Yow!

WORLD AIDS DAY

The MCCLV will hold a special service to commemorate and recognize World AIDS Day. The service will be Sunday Dec. 2 at 6 pm at 424 Center Street, Bethlehem.

DIY TIME CHANGE

WDIY-FM, your community public radio station in the Lehigh Valley, has made it even easier to find your favorite programs. Now, you can tune in to 88.1 FM (93.9 FM in Easton and Phillipsburg, NJ) on Saturday evening at 7pm for "This Way Out," a radio magazine of news and culture for the lesbian and gay community. Then, keep your radio tuned there for "Assorted Women" at 7:30, where Audrey brings you women's music and lets you know where your favorite women artists will be performing.

AS IF DATE CHANGE

As If Productions is postponing the amateur film night originally set for October 14. Watch VFP for the future date.

CALENDAR

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.767.7897
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
As If Productions - Documentary Film Makers, 610.434.7845
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay &Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
Enigma Players 610-432-0706
EQUAL! at Agere 610.712.5532
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GLEE at Air Products
GLASS- at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.3469
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA18105-1952, email- GLORAinPA@AOL.COM
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball,. Tennis, Racquet Ball . 610.434.2966.
GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.954.7775
HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716
Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family and Friends 1st Monday each month 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem. 610-758-8642
KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at 6:30pm, Contact : Chris at 610-868-0248, or Donna at610.997.00607
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays, UUCLV Bethlehem. 610.366.3320, lvgmc@hotmail.com
MCC - Metropolitian Community Church, office-424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem,6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775
NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday fron 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge),, College Center call 610.861.5541(#1386)or 882-2531
19th St/Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943
Out There- Students att Cedar Crest College
PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Info Booklet, & Political Lobbying) For membership: send $20 to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449
PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and gays 2nd Sundays 3pm at NCC, Coll. Cntr Rm 134 610.967.5219 <www.users.fast.net/~pflag>
Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>,<www.pridelv.org>
QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College Farion Center Box 429 Easton, PA, <QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

OCTOBER 2001 YOU MUST BE REGISTERED

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 INTEGRITY RAA	2 GLOSS LVGMC	3	4 RAA GLOSS ACCO	5 KS	6 GLORA WDIY BEARS GLOSS
7 AIDSWALK MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	8 RAA	9 GLOSS LVGMC	10	11 PRIDE NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY	12 KS PRIDE Dances	13 PRIDE Comedy True Colors GMLV
14 PFLAG MCC PA-GALA Party	15 RAA	16 GLOSS LVGMC	17 PRIDE ELECTIONS	18 RAA GLOSS ACCO	19 KS	20 WDIY MCC BANQUE GLOSS
21 WDIY HMFF UUCLV MCC Anniv.	22 RAA	23 GLOSS GLSEN LVGMC	24 DAVE PALLONE AHRC BANQUET	25 RAA GLOSS ACCO	26 KS	27 GMLV TRAINING WDIY GLOSS
28 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	29 RAA	30 GLOSS LVGMC	31 GLORA			

NOVEMBER 2001 VOTE FOR GAIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 ACCO RAA GLOSS	2 KS	3 WDIY BEARS GLOSS GLORA
4 MCC HMFF UUCLV	5 INTEGRITY RAA RAA	6 Election Day	7	8 ACCO RAA GLOSS	9 KS	10 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
11 FACT MCC HMFF UUCLV	12 RAA	13 GLOSS LVGMC	14	15 ACCO RAA GLOSS	16 KS	17 LVGMC CONCERT
18 MCC HMFF UUCLV	19 RAA	20 GLOSS LVGMC	21 PRIDE	22	23 KS	24 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
25 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	26 RAA	27 GLOSS LVGMC	28 HAVEN	29 RAA ACCO GLOSS	30 KS	

DECEMBER 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 WDIY GLOSS BEARS
2 GLORA FACT MCC WORLD AIDS DAY	3 INTEGRITY RAA	4 GLOSS LVGMC	5	6 ACCO RAA GLOSS	7 KS	8 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
9 PFLAG MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	10 RAA	11 GLOSS LVGMC	12	13 Reading RAA PFLAG GLOSS ACCO	14 KS	15 WDIY GLOSS
16 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	17 RAA	18 GLOSS LVGMC	19	20 RAA GLOSS ACCO	21 KS	22 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
23 30 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	24 RAA MCC	25	26	27 ACCO RAA GLOSS	28	29

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. Episcopal Church, 16th & Turner Atown.
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., PO Box 3624 Atown, PA 18016 610-814-5912/5913 racquel-lv@webtv.net
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533or 670.8029
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
TST- Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth. 610-867-1689, touchstone@nni.com
Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449
VYH - Valley Youth House weekly group for emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481
WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30 pm Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way Out 610.694.8100

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

FACT BINGO DIAMONZ - SUNDAYS
RAINBOW BOWLING - THURSDAYS
KINDRED SPIRITS - FRIDAYS
LV BEARS - FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY
GAY MEN-LV - 2 & 4THSATURDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - TUES & THURS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL - TUES & SATS

AIDSWALK - OCT 7
PRIDE YOUTH DANCE - OCT 12
PRIDE OLDIES DANCE - OCT12
TRUE COLORS DANCE - OCT 13
PRIDE COMEDY NIGH T- OCT 13
GMLV FILM - OCT 13
PFLAG-LV - OCT 14
PA-GALA FUNDRAISER-OCT 14
PRIDE ELECTIONS - OCT 17
MCCLV BANQUET - OCT 20
MCC ANNIV. SERVICE OCT 21
GLSEN MTG. - OCT 23
PALLONE @ MUHLENBERG - OCT 24
AHRC AWARDS BANQUET - OCT 24
YOUTH GRP TRAINING - OCT 27
GLORA HALLOWEEN PARTY - OCT 27
GMLV GAME NIGHT - OCT 27
GLORA HAYRIDE - NOV 3
ELECTION DAY - NOV 6
FACT @ STATE THEATER - NOV 11
LVGMC CONCERT - NOV 17
HAVEN GLBT YOUTH - NOV 28
FACT SNOWBALL - DEC 2
GLORA ANNUAL DINNER - DEC 2
WORLD AIDS DAY (MCC) - DEC 2

THE INFORMATION IN THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL TO CONFIRM TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449 EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

FROM AHRC

Allentown's Human Relations Commission urges all residents of the city to consider their relationships with all of their neighbors and to refrain from actions that bespeak bigotry and a failure to respect the rights and the culture of other people.

Lauren Giguere, Chair, Allentown Human Relations Commission

NPR QUOTE

"Let me put it in bald terms...If your plane was highjacked, who would you rather sit next to--righteous reverends who will sit back and say, 'This is God's punishment for gay Teletubbies,' or the gay rugby player who lays down his life to save others? And by the way, which person seems closer to God?"

-Scott Simon," Weekend Edition," National Public Radio, September 22

SPECTER SPEAKS ON HATE CRIMES

Senator Arlen Specter (R) was the special guest at a PA-GALA rally for the passage for inclusive State Hate Crimes Legislation on September 14 , at the William Way Center in Philadelphia. Sen. Specter had just visited the Somerset crash site and spoke eloquently about the tragedy and the need for the country to come together. As the prime Republican sponsor of the Federal Hate Crimes Bill, Specter told the audience to press for this legislation at this time when all the country is focused on fighting hate. He also mentioned the remarks of Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, and called them ridiculous.

PA-GALA (the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance for political action) was active in the passage of this legislation in the State Senate in June, 2001. It now must pass in the State House of Representatives and be signed by the Governor.

POINT COUNTER-POINT

Coming Out The First Time by Jason Coble

I was 15 when I decided to come out. It wasn't a terribly difficult thing to do for me because I knew I had a loving family, and I was also a little rebellious to begin with, so it wasn't a big deal to be the bearer of what might be bad news.

My friend April's father was abusing her because she was friends with a gay boy.

So one Easter we were hanging out, and my friend April's father came into the restaurant we were in, pulled her out by her hair, and after beating her in the parking lot, took her home.

I quickly got two of my lesbian friends, drove over to April's house, sneaked her out, and brought her back to my parents' house.

Of course I had to explain why April was there, and why she would be staying for a while. So, I went into this long drawn out story full of details of what April's father had done. Then I had to explain why.

I took a deep breath, and said, "He doesn't like me because I am gay." My mother took a moment's pause and said calmly, "It's just a phase, but yes she can stay here." My father on the other hand said to me with a big smile, "Thank god that's all, I thought something was really wrong with you."

It was a good response. April moved in. I eventually, with my parents help, sent coming out cards to each and every family member. There are a few that don't talk to me, a few that seem distant when they do, and the rest are totally fine with it. I couldn't have asked for a more loving and inviting home than the one I was brought up in.

Coming Out The First Time by Stephen Libby

I have always had affection for the 1982 movie Making Love. So much so that I just purchased the poster online. It wasn't until I opened it and held it my hands that I understood why I held this movie above other gay films. It's not a great movie, but it's the first one I saw dealing with a gay man and his recognition and acceptance of his sexual orientation. I was 17 when I dragged five of my closest friends (two guys and three girls) to the nearest cinema (90 minutes away) to see this risque film with former (lesbian) angel, Kate Jackson. Kate was my beard. All my friends knew I loved her and thought that was my attraction to this film. When Harry Hamlin and Michael Ontkean kissed for the first time you could hear the moans of disgust. Someone actually threw a cup of soda at the movie screen. But this little island boy (me) let out a sigh of relief.

By the time I had graduated from high school, I had come out to all of those friends. The girls were the most tolerant. One guy stopped talking to me. I told my best friend Michael, at our graduation party. He looked a little disappointed at first, then said "So, now we won't be fighting over the same girls, right?" "Right," I said. "Well, that's cool," he said.

As we walked out of the room he asked me, "So, that movie Making Love, was it real?" I said, "I don't know. I'll let you know after I'm married to a woman for 8 years, and leave her for a bare-chested Harry Hamlin (circa 1982-yum!)." I still talk with 4 out of the five and I still watch Making Love on a yearly basis.

Dear WTA: During this time of national tragedy, a lot of people have come out to give blood, but will the American Red Cross allow gay men to give blood? **Signed A Patriot**

Dear Patriot: When VFP sent out a blanket email suggesting people give blood, two people in the community contacted us saying that gay men are not allowed by the American Red Cross to do so. We checked this with the Health Dept. and they confirmed it.

The implication is that the Red Cross seeks to "protect" blood by simply eliminating those they decide might be a risk, by using a form donors fill out. Yet all blood must be tested for HIV / AIDS and other contamination. After all, anyone can have AIDS and there are many other blood problems that can make blood donations unacceptable. According to health information sources, in the extremely rare instances when "bad" blood slips through, it is due to human error, not the fallibility of testing.

So, if you don't think this policy is based in homophobia, consider this: Statistically, lesbians are the least likely group to have HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted blood diseases (less likely than gay men, straight men or straight women), but the Red Cross has never made an effort to directly seek out the blood donations of lesbians as a group. Why not?

Dear WTA: More and more companies are giving domestic partnership benefits to same-sex couples. But I can see why some companies don't want to, after all, what's to stop two people from pretending they are a couple just to get benefits? **Signed Anon.**

Dear Anon: You really need to understand the DP Benefits process before you start jumping to conclusions about problems.

Domestic Partner benefits programs require the couple to show financial interdependence. Trish and I have DP Bens from her job as a NY State employee. We had to show at least **five years** of financial interdependence including living together, and at least three of these proofs of financial relationship: joint bank accounts, beneficiaries of each others wills and insurance policies, a joint mortgage or joint rental lease, joint loans, shared investment accounts, Vt. Civil Union, or other financial joint ventures. Some businesses don't require such a long time period (Muhlenberg's requirement is 6 months), but they still require the same level of interdependence.

For couples in long term relationships, showing this kind of interdependence is easy. It was for us. But two people who aren't actually committed to each other, are unlikely to rush into financial commitments like those. Conversely all an opposite sex couple has to do is get married and the next day they qualify for benefits.

Of the thousands of companies giving these benefits, no company has ever publicly reported having problems with people abusing them.

Finally, these kinds of benefits cost a company very little, because there are rarely a large number of couples who immediately sign on. Where ever you work, if family benefits are available to legally married people, part of the cost of those benefits comes out of your pay check. There really are no good reasons for a company to not give the same benefits to same-sex couples as they do for opposite-sex couples.

SCOTT SAYS
BY SCOTT LAUBNER

BE CONSCIOUS OF DISCRIMINATION

On September 11th thousands of innocent people lost their lives because of a group of criminals who hate America and everything we stand for. They hate our freedom of speech and of the press; they loathe our freedom of peaceful assembly; they detest our freedom of religion. A freely elected government is the antithesis of the tyranny they espouse. Yet in our mission to bring these criminals to justice let us not forget these freedoms that cause our enemies so much hate.

I have lunch every day at work with my friend, Michael who is an Arab-American. Michael always gives me a unique perspective on current events. Last week Michael told me passengers who looked Arabic were asked to get off airplanes they boarded because they were making other passengers anxious. This was after they had undergone the same metal detectors, x-ray machines and inspections, as did all the other passengers. In our rush to improve security let's not tread on a particular group's civil rights.

The majority of Muslims and Arabs living in this country are honest, hard working, law abiding people who add to the great American melting pot. The GLBT community is no stranger to prejudice and should be especially conscious of the singling out of a group of people for discrimination.

Our national security is most important especially in these tragic times. We must not however, turn a blind eye to discrimination in whatever form it takes.

IF ELECTED, AFFLERBACH SAYS DADAY IS OUT, BUT WOULD LOVETT KEEP DADAY?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Lovett's statements in the Morning Call, that seemed to support Allentown City Solicitor Robert Daday, concerned PA-GALA and the VFP. Lovett readily agreed to speak to us, and we went to see him on Monday, Oct 1.We talked with him for about two hours about his committment to legislation that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and his position on the retention of Robert Daday as City Solicitor.

Lovett remained absolutely firm on his support of the amendment of sexual orientation to Allentown's anti-discrimination ordinance. However, he seemed unaware of the many efforts City Solicitor Daday has made over the last three years to stop or remove anti-discrimination protections from Allentown's gay and lesbian citizens and employees, even though Daday's actions have been covered in the Morning Call.

We explained to Lovett that the GLBT community sees Daday as a symbol of minority discrimination, especially against the GLBT community and that retention of Daday as City Solicitor would seem to oppose the anti-discrimination ordinance, since it has been Daday himself who has worked to stop passage, or even consideration, of these equal rights protections. We also pointed out that Daday just recently removed anti-discrimination protections from City employees, though they had been in place for five years as prescribed by the Allentown City Charter (see last month's VFP).

Lovett said he could understand our concern and that between now and the election (Nov. 6), he would "test" Mr. Daday to see if his anti-gay actions were motivated by anti-gay bias or simply by law. If they are motived by bias, Mr. Lovett told us,"then I would not keep him on as City Solicitor."

PA-GALA will keep voters apprised, and hopes Mr. Lovett sees that if he is elected, keeping Mayor Heydt's City Solicitor Robert Daday in place, would not be viewed as a positive move by this community.

The other Allentown Mayoral candidate, Roy Afflerbach (D), has made a public statement that if elected he would not retain any of Mayor Heydt's current cabinet (including Daday), but would replace them with new advisors. Afflerbach is committed to the passage of the anti-discrimination ordinance.

A VIEW FROM A DYKE
BY LIZ BRADBURY

STOP FALWELL & ROBERTSON

At a time when all of us, as Americans, want to join together against hate, and work to somehow put an end to it, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson felt instead that they should whip up some more hate against anyone who happens to disagree with them. So they made public statements blaming innocent people, and God, for the horrible acts of September 11. Here's a little excerpt of their "on air" conversation:

> **JERRY FALWELL:** The ACLU's got to take a lot of blame for this (attack on America)
> **PAT ROBERTSON:** Well, yes.
> **JERRY FALWELL:** ...The abortionists have got to bear some burden for this because...when we destroy 40 million little innocent babies, we make God mad. I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way - all of them who have tried to secularize America - I point the finger in their face and say "you helped this happen."
> **PAT ROBERTSON:** Well, I totally concur, and the problem is we have adopted that agenda at the highest levels of our government. And so we're responsible as a free society for what the top people do. And, the top people, of course, is (sic) the court system.

After a lame attempt at apology by Falwell consisting of, "Well, I didn't really mean they themselves did these crimes," and a total denial from Robertson that he said anything, the country began to wake up and see these guys for what they are, self promoting hate mongers. Bill White of the Morning Call called them "boneheads," even Rush Limbaugh said it was "guys like these that give conservatives a bad name." Excellent letters to the editor began to appear against them in the Morning Call. Email petitions began to circulate. But still Pat Robertson's 700 Club is on the air.

While letters to the editor can make a difference, email petitions do nothing. If you want to really make a difference, do what "Stop Dr. Laura.com" did. The 700 Club is on Channel 69. It's paid programing like an info-mercial, so targeting their advertisers directly won't work. But targeting the TV Channel itself, might. After all, if Falwell and Robertson had made as virulent racial and religious slurs, people would be completely justified in insisting they be removed from television. This situation is no less serious. If people, even just a few people, believe these guys, then violence against those they blamed could easily follow.

What can you do? Well, start by writing an email to Channel 69 at: <news@wfmz>. Snail mail is taken even more seriously: WFMZ Channel 69, 300 East Rock Rd. Allentown PA 18103. Tell the station owners why you are disappointed the 700 Club is still on the air. VFP reader Jimmy Mulchaney actually watched Channel 69 for several hours to identify its regular advertisers (see list below). Mentioning the advertisers may also be affective. Finally, actually writing directly to the advertisers could really make a difference.

These suggestions are just from me as an individual, not VFP and not from PA-GALA. I personally feel very strongly that Dr. Laura was nothing compared to what these guys have done. There will always be people who disagree with us. But to blame us for this horrible tragedy is reprehensible.

Regular advertisers on Channel 69: Selaggio Enterprises, Arrowhead Golf Course, Lehigh County Game Preserve, Dietrich Chevy-Buick, Chef Allen American Bistro-Reading, Keystone Magnification Center, Farr Nursery & Landscaping-Wolmesdorf, Weinstein Supply, Reading Honda, Bennett Infinity, Target Select Adv., Bloch Business Machines, Artistic Furnishings-Quakertown, Reading Acura, Clover Farms Milk, Jack Lehr Electric, Scott Chevy, LV Ford-Hundai

7 YOUR NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY
BY PATRICIA SULLIVAN

Though October 11 is National Coming Out Day, many people are still afraid to come out. Despite many polls showing that if someone personally knows a gay man or lesbian they are more likely to support equal rights, despite the fact that being out on the job is the best protection from employment discrimination and despite the fact that one does not have to be GLBT to speak out about discrimination and the need for civil rights, most GLBT people remain partially or completely closeted.

Are you in the closet? What would be the real consequences of your being honest about your life versus the convenience of hiding your sexual orientation? Think about the people you know who are out and ask yourself how you are different from them. How is it that others you know in the same job as you, or employed by the same business, or even in some instances in the same family can be out and you can't? Think about the people who have told you that it's too risky to come out. Are they out or closeted?

I often say I came out when the obstetrician slapped me on the butt, because It seems so long ago. Certainly, I knew my sexual orientation very early in life. Being a gay man or lesbian is not a choice, but being an out gay man or lesbian definitely is. Long ago I decided I wasn't going to be embarrassed about my sexual orientation. I wouldn't pretend to my family, that I lived with a friend or room-mate. I decided to always acknowledge my partner publicly . When I made that choice I was afraid, but I was unwilling to settle for less.

Being out has never been a problem. My relationships with some people changed, but the relationships that didn't improve, were frankly not very good before. Yes, I feel discrimination every day because we do not have full civil rights but I wouldn't feel less discriminated against if I were in the closet. And I fell better about myself because I don't have to avoid talking about the most important person in my life or be dishonest with myself or others about who I am. Being out has allowed me to put my energies into living life, not into hiding.

Our goal is the day when no one feels they have to be closeted. On October 11, you can do two things to bring that day closer. One: Come out, because it will positively change the way your family, friends, and acquaintances will feel about civil rights for people in the GLBT community. Two: Support the fight for the rights you don't have, with a generous contribution to PA-GALA. PA-GALA is the only organization in the Lehigh Valley that is working every day for your civil rights. If you can't be out, at the very least do your part to ensure that those who are and are willing to publicly fight for your civil rights, have the resources to succeed.

GLBT YOUTH GROUP

A new youth group open to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth and their friends (ages 14-20 yrs.) will be hosted by UUCLV. The group will be called Haven and its mission is to provide a safe, supportive environment for GLBT youth, provide positive GLBT role models and peer support, and sponsor social and recreational activities in addition to weekly meetings. Meetings begin on Wednesday, November 28 from 7-9 PM at UUCLV, Rm. 304.

All functions will be facilitated or chaperoned by professionally trained volunteers. The group is currently planning an open house for parents and others to meet the facilitators and learn more about the group. For further information contact: Ilse Stoll Zinnes: 610-868-2153, <zinnes@fast.net>.

GLSEN MEETING

Due to the Sept. 11 tragedy, the new LV Chapter of GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network) did not hold the first steering committee meeting. It has been rescheduled for Oct. 23 at 7:00 pm. Anyone interested contact Carol Baron at: <csbarron21@aol.com> or 610.867.6641.

POP QUIZ

For National Coming Out Day, ask yourself....

1. Are you out at work?
2. If not, what do you think would actually happen if you came out? Do you think what would happen, is a good enough reason to stay in the closet for the rest of your life?
3. Are you out to your family?
4. If you had a child, would you prefer the child be straight? If so, why?
5. Do you think being gay or lesbian is inferior to being straight?
6. Do you think your life would have been better if you were straight?
7. Do you think gay men and lesbians should be entitled to civil rights protections?
8. Have you ever made an ef fort at work to establish an anti-discrimination policy which includes sexual orientation? How about domestic partner benefits?
9. Do you believe gay teachers should be allowed to be as out about their personal lives as straight teachers?
10. Do you think gay and lesbian youth should have openly gay and lesbian role models?
11. Do you think school curriculum should include information about historical figure's sexual orientation?
12. Do you think famous closeted public figures should be outed by the press?
13. Do you think the press should have kept Gary Condit's relationship with Chandra Levy a secret?
14. If someone told you to hide your sexual orientation
would you feel they were anti-gay?
15. Do you think authority figures should tell GLBT youth to hide their sexual orientation?
16. Do you think gay organizations should require their Board members to be out ?
17. Why do pro-gay churches use terms like commitment ceremony or holy union for same-sex couples, instead of holy marriage?
18. Would you write a pro-gay letter to the editor?
19. If you believe there is nothing wrong with being gay, do you also believe there is nothing wrong with people knowing you are gay?
20. Are you a member of PA-GALA?

PA-GALA membership is $20 a year,(additional PA-GALA rainbow team contributions are also needed). Join as a Coming Out Day present to yourself.

TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY FREE PRESS JOIN PA-GALA BY SENDING $20 TO: PA-GALA, P.O. BOX 20825 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

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We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, age, handicap or disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitian Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religous Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

QUOTE #1

As we grieve, we should also allow ourselves to be inspired and lifted by stories of courage and caring by members of our GLBT community who perished: Father Mychal Judge, the New York Fire Department chaplain, who died while administering last rites to a fallen firefighter, and Mark Bingham, a San Francisco public relations executive, who helped thwart the hijackers on the United flight that crashed in Pennsylvania, thereby perhaps saving the Capitol... ...For some, the struggle to bring America even closer to the complete dream of equality for all has been a renewing notion. ...It has never been more important to remain strong because at its core, the very opportunity to seek full equality is what makes this nation great. **Elizabeth Birch, HRC**

QUOTE #2

"I'm not going to charge people criminally for what they thought was a consensual act between adults. We do not send female officers into sports bars to come on to guys to see which ones respond and then arrest them. We should not be sending undercover decoys into homosexual-act areas to do exactly the same thing."
Wayne Cty, Michigan, Public Prosecutor Michael Duggan

QUOTE #3

" It made me cry that my fellow workers stuck up for me... I will never forget what they did...if more people would stick together and help one another, this world would be a better place to live. There is a new manager here (replacing the ousted anti-gay one) and she is a gem...I am looking forward to working with her for a long time to come."

-Local man whose successful story of fighting local discrimination was covered in last month's VFP.

Distelfink© 10/01 "Step up to the plate"
by Ruby Zebu

OCT. 11 IS NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY, COME OUT...IT'S TIME YOU DID.

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